

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 DEAE-00 HEW-02 EB-07 TRSE-00

SNM-02 IO-10 L-02 /034 W

----- 064169

R 080555Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8556

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 6146

FOR AMBASSADOR VANCE, S/NM, FROM SCHNEIDER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, IN

SUBJ: INDIAN OPIUM ALLOCATIONS

REF: STATE 103116

1. WHEN I SAW JASJIT SINGH TO DISCUSS HIS WASHINGTON PROGRAM WITH HIM MAY 7, I TOLD HIM WE HAD HAD SOME INQUIRIES ABOUT THE SUPPLY OF OPIUM PROMPTED BY OUR POSSIBLE SHORTFALL OF MEDICINAL CODEINE AND THAT WE HOPED INDIA WOULD DO WHAT IT COULD TO MEET OUR NEEDS. SINGH RE-ACTED IN A VERY FRIENDLY WAY BUT HE MADE IT CLEAR THAT HE WAS EXASPERATED WITH MALLINCKRODT FOR ITS AGGRESSIVE ACTIVITIES DIRECTED TOWARD OBTAINING ADDITIONAL SUPPLY. HE SAID MALLINCKRODT HAD BEEN TO DELHI, SEEN HIM AS WELL AS NUMEROUS OFFICIALS SENIOR TO HIM, AND OBTAINED ALL POSSIBLE INFORMATION. THEREAFTER IT HAD APPARENTLY GOTTEN A CONGRESSMAN TO APPROACH AMBASSADOR KAUL ASKING FOR THE SAME THINGS ALL OVER AGAIN. JASJIT SINGH SAID THE SITUATION REMAINED EXACTLY AS HE HAD INFORMED MALLINCKRODT IT WAS WHEN THEY WERE HERE. THE GOI INTENDS TO CONTINUE SUPPLYING OPIUM TO FOREIGN CUSTOMERS IN THE SAME PROPORTIONS AS IN THE PAST.

2. AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE SELLER'S MARKET WHICH INDIA

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ENJOYS, HE DESCRIBED THE RECENT CONGREGATION OF FOREIGN

BUYERS IN NEW DELHI AT THE TIME WHICH SEALED BIDS WERE
OPENED FOR FOREIGN SUPPLY TO INDIA OF THE BALANCE OF
INDIA'S MEDICINAL CODEINE REQUIREMENTS. FOR THIS
SUPPLY INDIA SELLS A SUFFICIENT QUANTITY OF OPIUM PLUS AN
EQUAL BONUS (HE DIDN'T SEEM SURE OF THE NUMBERS BUT HE
THOUGHT THE SUPPLY WAS 21 TONS TO BE CONVERTED TO 3 TONS
OF MEDICINAL CODEINE PLUS A BONUS OF 19 TONS FOR A TOTAL
OF 40). THE PENICK REPRESENTATIVE PRESENT WHEN THE SEALED
BIDS WERE ABOUT TO BE OPENED SEEMED SURPRISINGLY CONFIDENT;
HIS CONFIDENCE WAS EXPLAINED WHEN THE BIDS WERE OPENED
AND REVEALED THAT HIS FIRM'S BID HAD BEEN FOR THE TOTAL
CODEINE CIF NEW DELHI AT NO CHARGE. THE YUGOSLAVS WERE
NEXT AT \$7.00 A KILO WHICH ITSELF IS RIDICULOUSLY LOW.
SCHNEIDER

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